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CIA Halting Private Aid, Solons Told

By Sentinel Services

WASHINGTON — Director Richard Helms of the Central Intelligence Agency told Congress Tuesday that the CIA would cut off under-the-table financial aid to a number of private activities.

Helms met in closed session with 12 members of the Senate subcommittee that oversees CIA operations. Chairman Richard B. Russell, D-Ga., told reporters afterward that some clandestine financing would be stopped.

THE MEETING was called to look into CIA's recently disclosed subsidy to the National Student Association (NSA). This set off the furor that revealed the CIA had been secretly helping to support several non-governmental organizations.

Russell, defending the CIA, said the dispute created by the CIA-NSA relationship had "greatly damaged" the effectiveness of the CIA. But he said charges that it had hurt academic freedom were "just a lot of hogwash."

RUSSELL FIRST told reporters it was his own opinion that it now "might be well for the CIA to sever the financial connections with a great number of organizations."

Asked if Helms had stated such

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an intention to the subcommittee, Russell replied, "yes." But he said he would rather not quote Helms.

Russell's defense of the CIA came as Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, D-N.Y., told UPI in an interview that if the CIA erred in supporting the NSA, it was the fault of the Eisenhower, Kennedy and Johnson administrations. All of them, he said, had to approve the plan.

TWO LEADING educators, meanwhile, said the CIA-NSA arrangement was "incompatible with the standards and objectives of higher education, with academic freedom, and with the integrity of persons and institutions in an open society."

The statement was signed by Prof. Clark Byse of Harvard Law School and president of the American Association of University Professors, and William P. Fiddler, the organization's general secretary.

ADMINISTRATION sources said Tuesday that President Johnson will make no statement about CIA subsidies for private groups until a panel of three top officials completes a review of the situation.

Sources familiar with the President's views said Johnson has three reasons for withholding any statement pending completion of a review by Undersecretary of State Nicholas Katzenbach, Secretary of Welfare John W. Gardner, and Helms.

The reasons cited are: The President does not want to prejudge the case; he wants solid facts before speaking publicly, and he wants the benefit of the judgment and recommendations of his three-man panel.